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Identical letters dated 8 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

Syria was unjustly attacked by certain States members of the Security Council, at the forefront of which are the United States of America and its allies, at the meeting the Council held on 6 February 2014 to discuss Syria's chemical weapons. In making their accusations, those States ignored the truth and failed to present an objective assessment of Syria's accomplishments in fulfilling its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The United States of America and its supporters are also ignoring the fact that Syria is experiencing extraordinary circumstances because of the ongoing terrorist war that is being waged against it with the support of certain parties from the region and outside it that are known to all.

This unjust attack coincided with convening of the second Geneva conference and Syria's positive response to that conference. That such a blatant escalation should come at this very time is clear evidence that additional pressure is being put on Syria in order to influence events at the second Geneva conference. To illustrate the fabrications and misinformation that those States are spreading, Syria would like to draw attention to the following:

- The press statement that was issued following the Security Council's discussions of 6 February 2014 made no reference to any of the positive actions that Syria had taken, ignored the achievements that had been made recently and failed to mention Syria's constructive cooperation with the Joint Mission, the latter being something that Security Council members, the United Nations Secretariat, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and others have hailed;
- The States that are accusing Syria of being remiss have not yet fulfilled their commitments to destroy their chemical arsenals, although the deadline established for their destruction passed some 10 years ago and despite the fact that they are not facing the same security situation as Syria;
- Contrary to what has been said, Syria has from the outset assiduously sought to fulfil completely all requirements arising from its accession to the Convention and comply with the decisions of the Executive Council and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). It also fulfilled all of its obligations in the first phase

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with great scrupulousness and transparency and before the established deadline, all of which is attested to by the Joint Mission's records and reports;

- The hazards facing Syria in transporting chemical substances to the Syrian coast have been ignored, both from the theoretical and media perspectives. Armed terrorist have targeted the sites at which chemical substances are stored and shipments of chemicals on their way to the port of Ladhiqiyah. Those groups have not even spared the Joint Mission. The incident of 27 January 2014 involving the second shipment supports the veracity of what Syria has been saying;

- The demands for Syria to shoulder its responsibilities are groundless. From the start of the second phase of operations to fulfil its obligations, Syria objectively and truthfully set out the challenges facing it in transporting chemical substances. All States are aware of these challenges, namely, the difficult and complex security situation and the great shortfall in equipment required for packaging, loading and transportation;

- It is regrettable that the States that approved the press release and the Joint Mission are well aware that much of the equipment that reached Syria was not ready for use from a technical perspective, not to mention that many States refused to provide security equipment to Syria, despite the pressing need, and the fact that other vital equipment has not yet arrived. Syria, despite its modest resources and at the expense of being able to feed the country's children, nonetheless went ahead and purchased some of this equipment from a neighbouring country. It has also made a sincere effort to make the necessary preparations and take the measures required to transport the chemical substances.

The Syrian Arab Republic is making concerted efforts to prepare for a new operation to transport expeditiously a large quantity of chemical substances and systematically remove them from its territory. It would like to reiterate its desire to complete this process as soon as possible. Technical officials in Syria are constantly coordinating with the Joint Mission, with a view to overcoming any obstacles and difficulties and achieve the required goal within the deadline.

The Syrian Arab Republic requests that this question should no longer be politicized and that its difficult and complex security should be taken into account. Instead of making unfounded and tawdry accusations against the Syrian Government, the international community should fulfil its obligation to provide the assistance that will enable Syria to overcome the serious challenges facing it. We believe that these challenges are contributing to the delays in transporting chemical substances. We are confident that you are aware of how greatly Syria is committed to and desirous of meeting its obligations by the deadline established for the completion of this process.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mazen **Adi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.